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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/US92/00722</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 29 January 1992 (29.01.92)</p> <p>(30) Priority data: 681,866 4 April 1991 (04.04.91) US</p> <p>(71) Applicant: CONNER PERIPHERALS, INC. [US/US]; 3081 Zanker Road, San Jose, CA 95134-2128 (US).</p> <p>(72) Inventors: HOLLARS, Dennis, R. ; 23550 Skyview Terrace, Los Gatos, CA 95030 (US). WALTRIP, Delbert, F. ; 518 Millpond Drive, San Jose, CA 95125 (US). BONIGUT, Josef ; 181 Alamo Ranch Road, Alamo, CA 94507 (US). SMITH, Robert, M. ; 4046 Folsom Drive, Antioch, CA 94509 (US). PAYNE, Gary, L. ; 678 Bellflower, #26, Sunnyvale, CA 94086 (US). ZUBECK, Robert, B. ; 1102 Lisa Lane, Los Altos, CA 94024 (US).</p>		<p>(74) Agents: FLIESLER, Martin, C. et al.; Fliesler, Dubb, Meyer & Lovejoy, 4 Embarcadero Center, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94111-4156 (US).</p> <p>(81) Designated States: AT (European patent), BE (European patent), CH (European patent), DE (European patent), DK (European patent), ES (European patent), FR (European patent), GB (European patent), GR (European patent), IT (European patent), JP, KR, LU (European patent), MC (European patent), NL (European patent), SE (European patent).</p> <p>Published With international search report.</p>	
<p>(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR HIGH THROUGHPUT SPUTTERING</p> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>An apparatus provides a single or multi-layer coating to the surface of a plurality of substrates. The apparatus includes a plurality of buffer and sputtering chambers (12, 18, 20, 22A-E, 24A-C, 26 and 28-30), and an input end and an output end. The substrates are transported through said chambers (12, 18, 20, 22A-E, 24A-C, 26 and 28-30) at varying rates of speed. The apparatus may further include means for transporting a plurality of substrates through sputtering chambers (20, 26, 28) at variable velocities; means for reducing the ambient pressure within the sputtering chambers (20, 26, 28) to a vacuum level to enable sputtering operation; means for heating the substrates to a temperature conducive to sputtering coatings thereon providing a substantially uniform temperature profile over the surface of the substrates; and control means for providing control signals to and for receiving feedback input from, said sputtering chambers (20, 26, 28), means for transporting, means for reducing, and means for heating, the control means being programmable for allowing control over the means for sputtering, transporting, reducing and heating.</p>			
<img alt="Technical drawing showing two views of the apparatus. The top view, labeled 'FIGURE 1 part A' and 'FIGURE 1 part B', shows a cross-section of the apparatus with various chambers labeled 12, 18, 20, 22A-E, 24A-C, 26, 28, 30, and 40. Substrates are shown moving through these chambers. The bottom view, labeled 'FIGURE 2 part A' and 'FIGURE 2 part B', shows a similar cross-section with different chamber labels like 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120-1, 120-2, 122A, 122B, 122C, 122D, 122E, 124C, 124D, 126-1, 126-2, 128, 128-1, 128-2, 128-3, 128-4, 128-5, 128-6, 128-7, 128-8, 128-9, 128-10, 128-11, 128-12, 128-13, 128-14, 128-15, 128-16, 128-17, 128-18, 128-19, 128-20, 128-21, 128-22, 128-23, 128-24, 128-25, 128-26, 128-27, 128-28, 128-29, 128-30, 128-31, 128-32, 128-33, 128-34, 128-35, 128-36, 128-37, 128-38, 128-39, 128-40, 128-41, 128-42, 128-43, 128-44, 128-45, 128-46, 128-47, 128-48, 128-49, 128-50, 128-51, 128-52, 128-53, 128-54, 128-55, 128-56, 128-57, 128-58, 128-59, 128-60, 128-61, 128-62, 128-63, 128-64, 128-65, 128-66, 128-67, 128-68, 128-69, 128-70, 128-71, 128-72, 128-73, 128-74, 128-75, 128-76, 128-77, 128-78, 128-79, 128-80, 128-81, 128-82, 128-83, 128-84, 128-85, 128-86, 128-87, 128-88, 128-89, 128-90, 128-91, 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